

REVIEWS OF BOOKS AND AUDIOVISUAL AIDS

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Review Editor

Introduction to Modern Phototherapy, Leon Goldman, M.D., Charles C Thomas Publisher, Springfield, Ill, 1978, (126 pages, \$17.50)

Phototherapy has certainly had a renaissance in the past decade because of the laser and its current application to medicine, photochemotherapy for psoriasis and other skin diseases, photosensitivity, and photoallergic reactions to soaps, photochemotherapy of herpes simplex and many other modern uses of light. Dr. Goldman reviews the "sun worship" that many patients exhibit and points out the early use of light in the treatment of rickets and tuberculosis.

There are several chapters which try to briefly review the basics of the electromagnetic spectrum and ultraviolet light. In chapter 3 on ultraviolet light is classified as UVA = 360-280nm., UVB = 280-220nm., UVC = 220-120nm. These are not the usual wavelengths quoted by other photobiologists. The discussion on ultraviolet light sources and phototesting are good, but rely heavily on reports from the Task Force on Photobiology of the AAD and other authors.

The chapter on Phototherapy for Psoriasis is a good review, but suffers, as do most books, by a lack of current information in a rapidly advancing field. The discussion of photochemotherapy (PUVA) for mycosis fungoides and vitiligo uses wrong references and indicates PUVA is more effective than x-ray in early tumor stage which is not true. PUVA is most effective in plaque stage mycosis fungoides.

The chapters on phototherapy for acne and herpes simplex fail to point out some recent literature which would speak against the use of phototherapy. Recent controlled studies have shown photo inactivation of herpes simplex with dyes to be ineffective.

Dr. Goldman is right at home with his excellent chapters on lasers. Since he initiated most of the medical use of lasers, these chapters are excellent and easy to understand.

This book serves its purpose as an *Introduction to Modern Phototherapy* but anyone seriously interested in utilizing these techniques will have to go to the current literature for more details.

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Manual of Dermatologic Therapeutics with Essentials of Diagnosis, Kenneth A. Arndt, M.D., second edition, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1978

The intent of this manual, as expressed by the author in the preface, is to provide an approach to the therapy of common cutaneous disorders seen in ambulatory patients by medical students, house officers, physicians and other health care personnel. The result is a practical guide, which, though limited, does accomplish the goals set forth. The manual is written in outline form following the problem-oriented approach. Each entity is defined, its pathophysiology reviewed and then discussed in terms of subjective data (symptoms), objective data (clinical findings), assessment (how to confirm diagnosis, what techniques to use and how, and what associations to look for) and therapy sections. Obviously, in this telegraphic style, the discussion is limited, but since it is not intended to be a textbook, but rather a therapeutic guide, the limitation is not unreasonable.

The last third of the book is devoted to dermatologic procedures, techniques and treatment principles which are clearly and succinctly reviewed. A formulary of commonly used topical and systemic medications is also included with comparative price listing, a useful adjunct which physicians should well be aware of.

As a therapeutic guide to common outpatient type problems, this manual would certainly be useful to nondermatologists as well as being helpful to dermatologists looking for additional therapeutic modalities that they may not have tried (such as 6-10% sulfur lotion or cream for scabies, cryosurgery for lentigenes, etc.).

I like this manual and think it would be useful to any physician dealing with skin problems.

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